



HR1164

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois House of  
3 Representatives are pleased to congratulate Dr. Erma Brooks  
4 Williams on her retirement as Associate to the President for  
5 the Board of Trustees and Governmental Affairs at Chicago State  
6 University; and

7           WHEREAS, She earned her doctorate from Roosevelt  
8 University, her Bachelor's degree from the University of  
9 Illinois at Springfield, and an Associate of Arts degree in  
10 Journalism from Lincoln Land Community College in Springfield,  
11 where she graduated with honors; and

12           WHEREAS, She has served in numerous administrative  
13 capacities at Chicago State, including: successfully lobbying  
14 for the restoration of \$225 million in MAP funding;  
15 establishing partnerships among legislators and high schools  
16 to recruit students from their respective legislative  
17 districts; establishing collaborations between the University  
18 and Chicago Public Schools to recruit more students from  
19 Chicago Public Schools; lobbying and working with the Illinois  
20 Legislative Black Caucus and the Illinois General Assembly to  
21 secure funding; as well as many other achievements; and

22           WHEREAS, Prior to joining the University, she served in

1 various executive-level positions in the Chancellor's Office  
2 at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC); Dr. Williams  
3 served as Special Assistant for Education to the late  
4 Congressmen Harold Washington and Congressman Charles Hayes;  
5 she also served as a Budget Analyst for Illinois House Speaker  
6 Michael J. Madigan; and

7 WHEREAS, As a member of the Illinois Senate staff, she was  
8 the first African-American female to serve as Supervisor of the  
9 Senate Democratic Pages; Dr. Williams has written for various  
10 community newspapers and has appeared on local radio stations  
11 speaking on education issues; and

12 WHEREAS, Former Illinois State Senate President Emil  
13 Jones, Jr. appointed her to serve on the Advisory Council of  
14 the Illinois Commission on Brown v. Board of Education; she  
15 also serves on the Presidential Lincoln Library and Museum  
16 State Craft Advisory Commission; and

17 WHEREAS, Dr. Williams served on the local school council at  
18 Morgan Park High School; she secured the archives of the late  
19 Senators Fred Smith and his deceased wife, Senator Margaret  
20 Smith, the earlier archives of the Illinois Legislative Black  
21 Caucus and other distinguished members of the Caucus; she also  
22 secured the archives of an 1881 graduate of Chicago State  
23 University, which included the documents of John Wentworth; and

1           WHEREAS, The Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and  
2 Museum requested Dr. Williams to conduct President Emil Jones  
3 oral history in 2008; she is the author of *Political*  
4 *Empowerment of Illinois African American Lawmakers from 1877 to*  
5 *2005*; she is married to Attorney Paul L. Williams, a former  
6 member of the Illinois General Assembly and sole proprietor of  
7 his lobbying and law firm; they have 2 daughters, Courtney  
8 Rachel and LaTisha Sarah; therefore, be it

9           RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
10 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that  
11 we congratulate Dr. Erma Brooks Williams on her retirement and  
12 wish her continued success in her future endeavors; and be it  
13 further

14           RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be  
15 presented to Dr. Erma Brooks Williams as a symbol of our  
16 respect and esteem.